Environmental clearance for Hydro-Electric Power Projects

382. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hydro-Electric Power Projects submitted by the competent authority of Kerala State for environmental clearance are under consideration;

(b) if so, the details and the status of such projects as on today;

(c) whether the competent authority has taken any decision on environmental clearance of Pooyamkutty project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) has submitted the Environmental impact assessment report of the Pooyamkutty Project; and

(f) whether environmental clearance will be granted based on- the above report; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRrT.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Two projects namely Mankulam Hydro-Electric Project and Athirapally Hydro-Electric Project have been received from the Government of Kerala for environmental clearance. In respect of the Mankulam Hydroelectric Project, the proponents have been asked to obtain the forestry clearance whereas in respect of the Athirapally Hydro-Electric Project, the proponents have been asked to obtain the comments from the Central Water Commission.

(c) The Government of Kerala has not submitted any fresh proposal the environmental clearance of Pooyamkutty Project.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Action against poachers from Myanmar, Indonesia andThailand

383. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poachers from Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand were staying into Indian Ocean at Andaman and Nicobar Islands and taking away crocodiles and other species; and